

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 166

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Oak Ridge Children's Museum upon its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and commend those notable organizations that endeavor to further develop the minds and imaginations of our children; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Children's Museum is one such sterling institution that will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, for the past fifty years, the Oak Ridge Children's Museum has held as its mission to provide educational programs and exhibits with an emphasis on play and hands-on learning for all ages and backgrounds in the arts, environmental studies, history, and the world cultures that inspire, enrich, and improve the lives of East Tennessee children and their families and to collect and preserve artifacts that support the museum's educational goals; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Museum was founded by Girl Scout Troop 69, under the leadership of Joyce Maienschien, with a \$500 grant from the Reader's Digest Foundation; it was formally opened on March 11, 1973, in the library of the former Jefferson Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, in January 1974, the museum relocated to the former Highland View Elementary School, an original Manhattan Project school building; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the museum purchased the building and land from the City of Oak Ridge and today operates in 54,000 square feet with exhibits, classes, and programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of its executive directors, Selma Shapiro, Mary Ann Damos, and Beth Shea, the Children's Museum has transformed over the years into a destination that serves more than 50,000 people each year; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Children's Museum is committed to preserving the heritage of Oak Ridge and our great State; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, the Oak Ridge Children's Museum has been enriching and inspiring the intellect of Tennessee's youth, and it is appropriate that we honor this august institution on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Oak Ridge Children's Museum on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, extending our warmest wishes to the administration and staff of the museum for many years of continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.